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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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September 13, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. L. PAUL BREMER, III
Executive Secretary
Department of State

LT. COLONEL W. RICHARD HIGGINS Assistant for Interagency Matters Office of the Secretary of Defense

Mr. F. HENRY HABICHT Special Assistant to the Attorney General of Justice

MS. HELEN ROBBINS Executive Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce

MR. WILLIAM V. VITALE Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat Department of Energy

Executive Secretary Central Intelligence Agency

DR. GEORGE KEYWORTH
Director, Office of Science and Technology
Policy

SUBJECT:

Computer Data Base Security

A number of US firms offer commercial subscription services to computerized data bases. These data bases contain a considerable amount of scientific and technical data. Some of these data bases are being or can be exploited by the Soviet Union or surrogates as a form of technology transfer.

We need to determine the extent of the problem and then decide if we need to establish a USG policy on access to these data bases. As a first step, a Working Group will be established to define the problem, assign study tasks and schedules, and consider contractor support. The Working Group will provide guidance and direction for a coordinated USG review of this issue. Among its goals will be the preparation of a report to:

-- List what data bases are accessible;

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- Detail what types of data are available, and their vulnerability, and;
- -- Provide policy recommendations, alternatives, and their cost.

The Working Group should submit a final report in about six months to the NSC Coordinating Committee on Technology Transfer.

Commerce will take the lead by chairing the Working Group.

Canoly & Cleveland Michael O. Wheeler for Staff Secretary

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